

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the courtesy shown by the Examiner during the telephone interview on 17 December 2007. The current rejections were discussed but no final agreement was reached respecting the allowability of claims 1-7 and 14-20.

In response to the Final Rejection and in follow-up to that interview, the applicant now amends claims 1 and 14 so as to more clearly patentably distinguish those claims from the cited art. More specifically, claims 1 and 14 are both amended to provide that the edge cleaning duct has an outlet discharging into the "agitator cavity". Support for this amendment is found throughout the specification including, for example, particularly page 6, lines 17-20.

As explicitly noted by the Examiner in the Office Action, U.S. Patent 7,124,467 to Hitzelberger et al discloses an edge cleaning duct 46 having an outlet 66 which discharges into the dust container 26. The edge cleaning duct 46 does not discharge into the agitator cavity 32 housing the agitator 34. Accordingly, the Hitzelberger et al reference does not disclose the structure set forth in claims 1 and 14 of the present application.

As stated by the Examiner in the Office Action, the Sovis et al reference discloses an edge cleaning duct 40 having an outlet 132 discharging into the filter bag 124. Clearly, the edge cleaning duct 40 does not have an outlet discharging into the agitator cavity or brush chamber 12. Accordingly, the Sovis et al patent does not disclose the structure set forth in claims 1 and 14 of the present application.

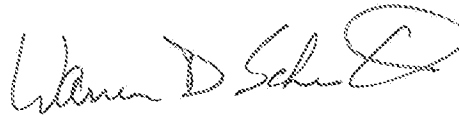
Based upon this amendment claims 1 and 14 clearly patentably distinguish over the cited art and should be formally allowed. Claims 2-7 and 15-20 which depend, respectively, from claims 1 and 14, are rejected on the same grounds and are allowable for the same reasons.

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Reply to Office Action of October 19, 2007

In summary, this amendment places all of the claims in the application in condition for formal allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment after Final Rejection is proper and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Warren D. Schickli", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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